

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1 – 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Previously Presented)

An endoscope, comprising:

an elongated insert section;

a solid-state image pickup device for picking up an image, the solid-state image pickup device being provided to an end portion of the insert section;

a general-purpose video signal processing circuit including a drive signal generating section for generating a drive signal for driving the solid-state image pickup device, and a video signal processing section for producing a standard video signal in response to an output signal outputted from the solid-state image pickup device;

an adjusting circuit including a timing adjusting section for performing timing adjustment of the drive signal by receiving and thereafter delaying the drive signal generated by the drive signal generating section in accordance with a delay time and transmitting the delayed drive signal to the solid-state image pickup device such that the output signal to be inputted to the general-purpose video signal processing circuit has a correct timing, and a signal processing adjusting section for adjusting signal processing with respect to the video signal processing section; and

a video signal output connector for outputting the standard video signal outputted from the general-purpose video signal processing circuit to an external display unit.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, wherein the general-purpose video signal processing circuit and the adjusting circuit are disposed in an operational section arranged at a proximal end of the insert section.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, wherein the general-purpose video signal processing circuit is mounted on a first common board along with a first microcomputer that performs operation setting of the general-purpose video signal processing circuit.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, wherein the adjusting circuit is mounted on a second common board along with a second microcomputer for controlling the adjusting circuit.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 15, wherein the adjusting circuit is mounted on a second common board along with a microcomputer for controlling the adjusting circuit.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 17, wherein the first microcomputer is connected to the second microcomputer through an interface.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, wherein the timing adjusting section comprises a delay amount adjusting circuit which receives the drive signal generated by the drive signal generating section and a signal corresponding to an amount of a delay time and thereafter delays the received drive signal and transmits the delayed drive signal to the solid-state image pickup device.

Claim 20 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 19, wherein the amount of delay time that the drive signal is delayed by the delay amount adjusting circuit corrects a time delay for the drive signal outputted by the drive signal generating section to be applied to the solid-state image pickup device and a time delay for the output signal outputted from the solid-state image pickup device to be inputted to the video signal processing section, to input the output signal to the video signal processing section at a predetermined timing.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, wherein the general-purpose video signal processing circuit comprises a digital signal processor.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, wherein the end portion includes a wave shaping circuit for performing wave shaping of the drive signal timing-adjusted by the timing section and applying the wave-shaped drive signal to the solid-state image pickup device.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, further comprising a light guide for transmitting illumination light, an end portion of the light guide being detachably connected to an external light source device.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, wherein the signal processing adjusting section comprises a pixel-number signal adjusting section for adjusting signal processing by the video signal processing section compatibly with different numbers of pixels of the solid-state image pickup device.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, further comprising an electrical bending driving section for controlling bending of a bending portion provided to the insert section.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, further comprising an external remote control circuit detachably connected to the endoscope.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented)

An endoscope, comprising:

a first endoscope including:

- a first insert section;
- a first solid-state image pickup device for picking up an image, the first solid-state image pickup device being provided to an end portion of the first insert section;
- a first general-purpose video signal processing circuit including a first drive signal generating section for generating a drive signal for driving the first solid-state image pickup device, and a first video signal processing section for producing a standard video signal in response to an output signal outputted from the first solid-state image pickup device;
- a first adjusting circuit including a first timing adjusting section for performing timing adjustment of the drive signal generated by the first drive signal generating section by receiving and thereafter delaying the drive signal generated by the first drive signal generating section in accordance with a first delay time and transmitting the corresponding delayed drive signal to the first solid-state image pickup device such that the output signal to be inputted to the first general-purpose video signal processing circuit has a correct timing, and a first signal processing adjusting section for performing signal processing adjustment with respect to the first video signal processing section; and
- a first video signal output connector for outputting the standard video signal outputted from the first general-purpose video signal processing circuit to an external display unit; and

a second endoscope including:

- a second insert section;
- a second solid-state image pickup device for picking up an image, the second solid-state image pickup device being provided to an end portion of the second insert section;
- a second general-purpose video signal processing circuit including a second drive signal generating section for generating a drive signal for driving the second solid-state image pickup device, and a second video signal processing section for producing a standard video signal in response to an output signal outputted from the second solid-state image pickup device;
- a second adjusting circuit including a second timing adjusting section for performing timing adjustment of the drive signal generated by the second drive signal generating section by receiving and thereafter delaying the drive signal generated by the second drive signal generating section in accordance with a second delay time and transmitting the corresponding delayed drive signal to the second solid-state image pickup device such that the output signal to be inputted to

the second general-purpose video signal processing circuit has a correct timing, and a second signal processing adjusting section for performing signal processing adjustment with respect to the second video signal processing section; and

a second video signal output connector for outputting the standard video signal outputted from the second general-purpose video signal processing circuit to an external display unit, wherein

for at least one of when the first insert section of the first endoscope and the second insert section of the second endoscope are different in length, and when the first solid-state image pickup device of the first endoscope and the second solid-state image pickup device of the second endoscope are different in the number of pixels, the first general-purpose video signal processing circuit and the second general-purpose video signal processing circuit are constituted by a common general-purpose video signal processing circuit, and the first adjusting circuit and the second adjusting circuit are constituted by a common adjusting circuit.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended)

An endoscope, comprising:

an elongated insert section;

a solid-state image pickup device for picking up an image, the solid-state image pickup device being provided to an end portion of the insert section;

a general-purpose video signal processing circuit including a drive signal generating section for generating a drive signal for driving the solid-state image pickup device, and a video signal processing section for producing a standard video signal in response to an output signal outputted from the solid-state image pickup device;

an adjusting circuit including a timing adjusting section for performing timing adjustment of the drive signal generated by the drive signal generating section such that the output signal to be inputted to the general-purpose video signal processing circuit has a correct timing, and a signal processing adjusting section for adjusting signal processing with respect to the video signal processing section; and

a video signal output connector for outputting the standard video signal outputted from the general-purpose video signal processing circuit to an external display unit, wherein

the general-purpose video signal processing circuit is mounted on a first common board along with a first microcomputer that performs operation setting of the general-purpose video signal processing circuit, the adjusting circuit is mounted on a second common board along with a second microcomputer for controlling the adjusting circuit, and the first microcomputer is connected to the second microcomputer through an interface.

Claim 29 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, wherein the video signal output connector outputs a plurality of standard video signals of different types.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented)

The endoscope according to claim 13, further comprising a connecting terminal for a remote control provided outside the endoscope for remote-controlling the general purpose video signal processing circuit.